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same. He expressed himself to that effect in letters to my father. From Dr. Griffith, Prof. Adams may have received the same impression (see Vt. Moll.) I am inclined to differ from them, believing the species, though nearly allied, to be quite distinct. Until we receive the true *H. fuliginosa* from the South-western States, I shall doubt its existence there. Our country has been too little searched, however, to allow us to draw very nicely the lines of geographical distribution. If I am correct in my view of this species, Mr. Say's name will, of course, take precedence over that of Dr. Pfeiffer.

*HELIX CLAUSA.* The specimens are much more globose than that figured in Am. Conch. The aperture is quite orbicular.

*HELIX APPRESSA, HIRSUTA, INFLECTA, PROFUNDA, AURICULATA, LIGERA, SOLITARIA, SUPPRESSA.*

*H. FATIGIATA*, as fig. in Terr. Moll. iii. pl. xxxix, f. 4.

*H. FLICATA.* Like *Troostiana*, Lea.

*H. FALLAX.* The upper denticle on the peristome placed within the aperture, like that of *H. vultuosa*, Gould.

*H. SEPTEMVOLVA.* Large and small var. of *cereolus*, Mhtl.

*SUCCINEA AVARA, CAMPESTRIS.* Same as figured in Terr. Moll.

*HELICINA ORBICULATA, OCCULTA*, (fossil.)

*PUPA PENTODON, CORTICARIA, ARMIGERA.*

*ACHATINA SOLIDA.* More elongated than that fig. in Terr. Moll.

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November 3d, 1857.

Vice President LEA in the Chair.

Mr. Slack remarked, that the specimens of chalcedony and quartz presented by him this evening, had been obtained from a quarry on the left bank of the Nile, whence was procured the limestone used in the erection of the Pyramids. They appear to have been rejected by the workmen when selecting the lime.

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November 10th, 1857.

MR. CASSIN in the Chair.

Dr. Morris called the attention of members to an appearance of the eastern horizon just before, at and after sunset. On any clear evening, after a warm day, a person looking towards the east a few minutes before sunset, will observe a red band of light extending along the whole horizon; above, it is gradually shaded into yellow light, which passes into greenish, and finally into blue, at various distances from the zenith. As the sun descends in the west, these bands of red and yellow light rise in the east, until the red makes an angle of about 15° with the plane of the horizon, leaving a clear dark blue space beneath. The colors are brightest about ten minutes after apparent sunset: after which they gradually fade away. A cloudy or misty state of the atmosphere near the zenith of the observer obscures or prevents the occurrence of the phenomenon: but a fog-bank in the horizon does not interfere. In Kæmtz's Meteorology, translated by Walker, page 408, the same phenomenon is partially described, but he places the "white or yellow stripe" between the red and the blue of the horizon, or below the red. I have never seen it anywhere but as above. Kæmtz thinks that the blue is due to the shadow of the earth projected against the eastern sky, while the red

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band is caused by the absorption of the other constituents of white light in traversing so great an amount of atmosphere. This hypothesis is also maintained by Mr. Martin in his Notes, F. p. 497: and he gives a much fuller and better account of the phenomenon as observed in morning twilight by M. Bravais from the summit of the Faulhorn. If it were really due to this cause, no reason could be assigned for the gradual fading and disappearance, first of the yellow and then of the red light, when they have risen about  $20^\circ$  above the horizon; they ought to follow the sun completely across the sky. I believe the phenomenon to be due to the formation of an iris by the sun's light falling on the vapor of the atmosphere which has become partially condensed as the sun has receded; probably this will be found to correspond with the iris given by five internal reflections and two refractions of the sun's rays.

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*November 17th, 1857.*

Vice President LEA in the Chair.

The following papers were presented for publication in the Proceedings:

"Descriptions of some new Reptiles collected by the U. S. Exploring Expedition, under the command of Capt. Chas. Wilkes, U. S. N., by Charles Girard."

"Notices of new Genera and species of marine and fresh-water fishes from Western North America, by Charles Girard."

"Description of a new species of *Cypselus*, collected in the N. W. Boundary Survey, A. Campbell, Esq., Commissioner, by C. B. R. Kennerly, Surgeon and Naturalist of the Expedition."

"Notes on the American species of *Archibuteo* and *Lanius*, and Description of a new species of *Toucan*, of the genus *Selenidera*, by John Cassin."

Which were severally referred to Committees.

Mr. Cassin read the following extract from a letter of Mr. P. B. DuChaillu.

*Fernando Paz River, August 17th, 1857.*

"While hunting after the Gorilla a few days ago, I met with a male surrounded by a few females. The male has a red crest, like a cock.

"Both the guinea fowl and the black pheasant are birds which are not seen before you reach fifty or sixty miles in the interior, and are unknown to the natives of the sea shore. The birds of the Fernando Paz country, until you reach the interior, are exactly the same as those of Cape Lopez, the country being similar in appearance. At the Cape properly there is no town: the largest town of the Cape Lopez people is Sangatonga, situated in the bay formed by the Cape. It is the residence of the king, and is situated in a beautiful prairie at the foot of a hill rising about two miles in the interior. The soil of Cape Lopez is generally light and sandy; the country presents an aspect quite different from that between Fernando Pô and the Gaboon, looking a good deal like the countries of Southern Africa toward the Cape of Good Hope—large prairies with groves of trees. In these groves the Cape Lopez people have their plantations, as the soil is good. Sweet potatoes, cassada, plantain, ground nuts and sugar cane are the products. They plant in pretty large quantities, as these form the main staple of their food; sweet potatoes, especially, grow well. Good roads could easily be made, and would be a powerful aid to colonization. The raising of cattle could be made a profitable business, for the prairie land would afford good grazing. A good many wild cattle are seen wandering over the

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